

Claims

- [c1] A method of providing collect call service comprising:
receiving a request for a collect call from a calling party;
receiving a selected number to call;
placing a call to a receiving party;
determining whether said receiving party is agreeable to
accepting credit card billing for said collect call; and
connecting said calling party to said receiving party in
response to said acceptance.
- [c2] A method as in claim 1 wherein said calling party is a
party calling from at least one of an inmate facility, a
business, a residence, a pay phone, a commercial facility,
and a military facility.
- [c3] A method as in claim 1 further comprising:
prompting the receiving party and receiving a receiving
party response; and
placing said call to said receiving party in response to
said receiving party response.
- [c4] A method as in claim 1 further comprising prompting the
calling party in response to approval of said connection.

- [c5] A method as in claim 1 further comprising billing a credit card account in response to said acceptance.
- [c6] A method as in claim 1 further comprising:
requesting a credit card account number; and
billing a credit card account associated with said credit card account number in response to said acceptance.
- [c7] A method as in claim 1 connecting said calling party to said receiving party via a public network.
- [c8] A method as in claim 1 further comprising determining whether said receiving party is agreeable to accepting charges for said collect call and billing said receiving party for said collect call.
- [c9] A method as in claim 8 wherein billing said receiving party for said collect call comprises billing a party normally billed and associated with said selected number.
- [c10] A method as in claim 9 wherein billing a party not normally associated with said selected number to call comprises billing a party that resides at or has a place of business with an address associated with said selected number to call.
- [c11] A method as in claim 9 wherein billing a party not normally associated with said selected number to call com-

prises billing a party that resides at or has a place of business with an address unassociated with said selected number to call.

[c12] A method as in claim 1 further comprising:
receiving an inmate platform query;
determining status of said selected number to be called;
processing said status and generating a blocking signal;
and
determining whether said receiving party is agreeable to accepting credit card billing for said collect call in response to said blocking signal.

[c13] A method as in claim 12 wherein determining status of said selected number to call results in a blocked response.

[c14] A method as in claim 13 wherein processing said status comprises determining whether the called number is blocked.

[c15] A collect calling system comprising at least one communication site receiving a request for a collect call from a calling party and a selected number to call, said at least one communication site placing a call to a receiving party in response to said selected number to call, determining whether said receiving party is agreeable to ac-

cepting credit card billing for said collect call, and connecting said calling party to said receiving party in response to said acceptance.

[c16] A system as in claim 15 wherein said at least one communication site comprises at least one of a central office, a remote office, a terminating office, an office having an operator platform, an office having a line information database.

[c17] A system as in claim 15 further comprising a network, said at least one communication site routing said collect call through said network.

[c18] A system as in claim 15 wherein said at least one communication site receives a request from a collect call from an inanimate object or an animate object.

[c19] A system as in claim 15 wherein said at least one communication site determines acceptance for credit card billing from a response from an inanimate object or an animate object.

[c20] A method of providing collect call service comprising:
receiving a request for a collect call from a calling party;
receiving a selected number to call;
receiving an inmate platform query;
determining status of said selected number to be called;

processing said status and generating a blocking signal;
placing a call to a receiving party;
determining whether said receiving party is agreeable to
accepting credit card billing for said collect call in re-
sponse to said blocking signal; and
connecting said calling party to said receiving party in
response to said acceptance.